



The Groundplane

ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



SBARA-The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

October 2016 - Volume 16, Issue 10

President's Corner - October 2016

Welcome to October! It's an extremely busy month. From the California QSO Party (CQP) to Pacificon to Halloween...there's something for everyone! Oh...and let's not forget preparing for the elections...the SBARA officer elections that is. I really don't consider myself a contester, but since CQP is all about California being the center of attention, I couldn't help go out of my way to participate in the contest. I know I have mentioned this before, but for those of you who may be new to contesting, a great resource is the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

There are several links to slice and dice the contest calendar including: 8-day calendar, 12-month calendar, Perpetual Calendar, etc. It's a great website to find out what contests are coming up, what bands they cover, start and end times, etc., and there are links that take you to the actual contest website for more details.

The basic rules of CQP are: Stations outside of California, worldwide, work stations in California only. The 58 counties of CA are the multipliers. California stations work all stations in or out of CA. The 50 US states and 8 Canadian areas are the multipliers. Stations outside of Canada and the US add to one's QSO total but do not count as multipliers.

Operating options, like for Field Day, are to Search and Pounce (spin the dial and hunt for stations to contact) or Running (sitting on a frequency fishing for stations to come to you). I did a bit of both on 40, 20, and 15 meters. There was a doc that suggested that CA stations should Run, but the wait between contacts seemed to be forever...at least on Saturday. Don Safer (KC6IPO) later mentioned that 10 meters was open, but I never heard any stations. It was never open for me...at least when I tried.

Sunday was a bit more rewarding. I spent the last two hours of the contest sitting on 7.226 MHz. I couldn't believe it. I went from 4000 points to 7000+ points and 50 contacts. All kinds of counties, most of which I didn't have yet, were contacting me. [NOTE: The secret word for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "QSO." Write this word down on a piece of paper and hand it to Larry at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] It was funny, though, I also made a few local contacts. Shekhar (KG6UEF), in Fremont, and I actually managed to make contact on a couple of bands. And the very recognizable Norway-Six-Mike-Mike, Joe out of Newark, contacted me as well. I had a lot of fun!

October is an important month for SBARA. It's time to prepare for SBARA Officer elections in November. Please take a look at Al's (WT6K) article in this issue of the Groundplane. PLEASE consider getting more involved with the club and participate as an officer or other member of the board. WE NEED YOU!

Lastly, Pacificon, ARRL's Pacific Division Convention is coming up quickly. It is Friday through Sunday, October 14th through 16th. Once again it is at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Check pacificon.org for more information. I'll be there manning the Parachute Mobile booth. Stop by and say hello! Rain is in the forecast, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that we get a break on Saturday to allow our jumpers, out at the drop zone at Byron Airport, to jump and make QSOs while floating back down under canopy.

73!

Steve KG6HJU



Parachute Mobile at Pacificon



QST QST QST — Parachute Mobile Mission 25 is set for Saturday, October 15, 2016. This will be in conjunction with Pacificon, ARRL's Pacific Division Convention.

Make a contact with a skydiver and receive a one-of-a-kind QSL card.



WHERE: We will be conducting the Mission from Bay Area Skydiving, Byron Airport, Byron, CA.

PACIFICON: Come by and visit us at our table at the San Ramon Marriott. Look for us in the hallway next to the patio doors. Live streaming video and a GOTA station will be available.

TIME: We hope to have our first jump sometime between 9:30 and 10:30 A.M.



FREQUENCIES: Jump QSO frequency will be 146.430 MHz simplex.

We will also be dedicating one jump for D-star. Locally, D-Star will be via the W6CX repeater on Mount Diablo, output 145.000, input 147.500, reflector REF014.

UPDATES: On mission day, updates will be made regularly on the W6CX repeater located on Mount Diablo, 147.060+ 100. Updates will also appear on our public Facebook page so please join us there.

STREAMING VIDEO: Ground and air-to-ground video will be available. To watch the excitement unfold go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/mfwright>.

APRS: View live APRS data during each jump. Along with altitude and speed there will also be biotelemetry from the jumper that will include heart rate and SpO2 (blood oxygen level). Just search the jumper's call sign prior to each jump. Jumper 1: AF6IM and Jumper 3: KC6TYD

WEBSITE: Please check out our website at parachutemobile.org for more information and updates.

NOTICE: As always, this event is subject to change, delay, or cancellation. We have no control of the weather or the airplane.



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Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net takes place every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

Bernhard AE6YN

It is That Time of Year Again — Nominations for 2017 SBARA Officers

At the November SBARA meeting nominations will be the order of business. I'd like to take this opportunity to speak for all of the membership and thank Steve Wilson KG6HJU for being our president for the last three years. He has done a wonderful job of building the club in new memberships, financial stability, and creative programs. It goes without saying that Steve has done his part in giving of his time and energy to SBARA and we as the beneficiaries need to think of how we can do our part.

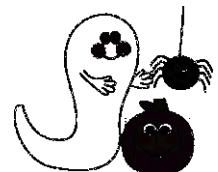


Joining the board of directors in one of the non-elected positions is the way Steve started. He didn't stand up three years ago at the November nomination meeting and say, "I'd like to be nominated for president." Years before, Steve joined the board, learned how the club operated, and how the board members interact in running SBARA. He moved up to running for an elected position and after being on the board decided to be president.

Healthy and vibrant volunteer organizations have a group of experienced people in the leadership positions (board of directors) who form the pool for their future elected officials. In November you will have an opportunity to nominate a member for an open elected officer position. But just as important, you will have the opportunity to volunteer to join the SBARA board, helping in an entry-level support role while becoming experienced with the ins-and-outs of running the club. I hope you will join Steve and the rest of the board of directors in 2017.

73,

AI, WT6K



October SBARA Membership Meeting

Craig Chivatero will be our guest speaker talking about **Global Positioning System (GPS) and How it Works**. Mr. Chivatero currently serves as a Principal Systems Engineer for Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Sunnyvale. He has 32 years of experience in spacecraft materials engineering/development and failure analysis, systems engineering, and building, testing and integration of spaceflight hardware. Among the programs he has worked on are the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and HST Servicing Missions 1 and 2, as well as many NASA and DoD space programs.

Friday, October 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court (off of Warm Springs Blvd), Fremont

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the pre-meeting dinner at:

Ho Chow Restaurant, 47966 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont. (510) 657-0683